

## **SITE DESCRIPTION: FORSYTH COUNTY INVENTORY REPORT, 1998**

**SITE #10 NAME:** Historic Bethabara

**SIZE:** About 35 acres forest, 30 acres alluvial bottom, 3+ wetlands

**SITE SIGNIFICANCE:** County. The site includes a recently acquired wetland area that is part of the Forsyth County park system as well as another, much larger wetland along Mill Creek. The site has very good potential as a point of interest in a larger greenway system that could serve this part of Winston-Salem.

**QUADRANGLE:** Rural Hall, NC

**LOCATION:** Located on the northwest side of Winston-Salem within the city limits at 2147 Bethabara Road. The site is about 0.5 mile north of NC 67 at Oldtown, just south of the historic buildings of the Bethabara settlement.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The site of one of the earliest settlements in Winston-Salem, Historic Bethabara supports a small but scenic area of mature, good quality Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest on slopes facing north and west and fair quality, somewhat disturbed Piedmont/Low Mountain Alluvial Forest along the south side of Monarcas Creek. Records from the 18th century made by the Moravian founders of the settlement are on file at the Historic Bethabara office complex and provide description of the historic biological composition of this site as well as surrounding areas. The area is now used for historic, natural, and cultural purposes, and it has excellent potential as a point of interest along a greenway system. An existing greenway traverses the north edge of the site along Monarcas Creek. This greenway also links this natural area with a newly acquired city park wetland area about one half mile to the west. From there, the greenway might be extended southward across NC 67 to a very large wetland area on Mill Creek that extends southward for over a mile.

The slopes within the site support mature Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest with a tall, closed canopy of red oak, mockernut hickory, tulip tree, American beech, and white oak. The canopy trees average perhaps 14 to 16 inches in diameter, with many in the 24 to 30 inch range. A sparse to moderately dense understory contains flowering dogwood, ironwood, red maple, redbud, American beech, fringetree, umbrella magnolia, white ash, and sourwood. The dimly lit understory supports few shrubs, though smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) and black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*) are present. A sparse to dense herb layer contains species such as Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), heartleaf aster (*Aster divaricatus*), New York fern (*Thelypteris hexagonopteris*), Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), may apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*), perfoliate bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliatum*), black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), and common alumroot (*Heuchera americana*). The vines common greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*)